

To: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**  
From: Richard Denison  
Sent: Mon 10/23/2017 8:24:31 PM  
Subject: EDF blog post: Top 5 takeaways from this weekend's NY Times investigation into industry influence in EPA's toxics program

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## **Top 5 takeaways from this weekend's NY Times investigation into industry influence in EPA's toxics program**

By [Richard Denison](#) | [Bio](#) | Published: October 23, 2017

**Richard Denison, Ph.D., is a Lead Senior Scientist.**

The lead article in Sunday's print edition of the *New York Times*, titled "[Why Has the E.P.A. Shifted on Toxic Chemicals? An Industry Insider Helps Call the Shots](#)," presents an 8000-word exposé of the Trump Administration's takeover of the Environmental Protection Agency's chemical safety program. It focuses on the outsized role played by Dr. Nancy Beck, who arrived at the Agency on May 1 fresh from her job as a senior official at the chemical industry's main trade association, the American Chemistry Council (ACC).

For those who have not had the chance to read the article, I provide here my take on some of its most compelling and disturbing findings:

- 1. Immediately upon her arrival at EPA as a political appointee, Dr. Beck made extensive changes to the near-final "framework rules" implementing the Toxic Substances Control Act.**
- 2. Dr. Beck's changes were objected to by career staff in multiple offices across the Agency.**

3. Dr. Beck is actively working to jettison proposed rules that would ban high-risk uses of trichloroethylene and methylene chloride.
4. Dr. Beck has been cleared to work on issues directly relating to her prior employer's interests.
5. While at ACC, Dr. Beck frequently worked with Michael Dourson, the industry toxicologist-for-hire that President Trump nominated to head the EPA chemical safety office and who is facing stiff opposition from many Senators.

For a bit more detail on each of these, keep reading. [Read More »](#)

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